

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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Caring for the Land and Serving People

Reply To: 3400

Date: January 5, 1990

Subject: Insect and Disease Suppression Needs - FY 1990

To: Regional Forester, R-9

On October 3, 1989, Forest Pest Management completed the "Biological Evaluation of the Gypsy Moth Outbreak on the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania, 1989." This report states that gypsy moth populations are on the decline, are low throughout the Forest, and will not require any suppression activity in 1990. Consequently, we would like to withdraw our request for insect and disease suppression money for FY 90 (see ANF letter on this subject dated September 1, 1989).

Though we will not have a suppression program this year, there still is gypsy moth IPM work which we will have to do. The gypsy moth is here to stay, and populations are cyclical. In some parts of Pennsylvania the lull in gypsy moth defoliation has only lasted two years. We would like FPM in Morgantown to conduct a biological evaluation of the ANF in the fall of 1990 to determine what the potential defoliation is for 1991. We need to annually track gypsy moth population levels using the biological evaluation technique so we know when suppression activities may again be necessary. We also still have a need for other non-suppression support from FPM (analysis of oak mortality which resulted from gypsy moth defoliation and drought, analysis of spray effectiveness, monitoring of beech bark disease complex infestation and related mortality, and monitoring of pear thrips populations and damage).

We would like to work with Bob Acciavatti to develop a long range plan for dealing with these and submit it for funding. The significance of these pests on the Forest is well beyond what we foresaw when we prepared the Forest Plan. Much of this IPM work has related directly to our spraying program since then, and we have paid for it with suppression funds. Those funds are not available this year, and we are faced with having to support IPM with our regular budget.

/s/ Dave

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